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PATENT
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

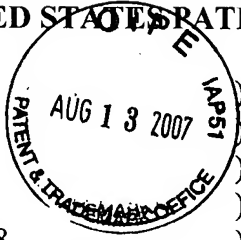
In re Application of:

Masahiro KATO et al.

Application No.: 10/827,518

Filed: April 20, 2004

For: INFORMATION RECORDING
APPARATUS AND INFORMATION
RECORDING METHOD



Confirmation No.: 2756

Group Art Unit: 2627

Examiner: Nabil Z. Hindi

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Window, Mail Stop Issue Fee
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER C.F.R. § 1.97(d)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(d), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO Form 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) is being filed after the events recited in § 1.97(c) but before the payment of the issue fee for the above-identified application. Under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d), a fee of \$180.00, as specified by § 1.17(p) is due for filing this IDS.

Each item of information contained in this IDS was first cited in a European Search Report dated May 14, 2007 in a corresponding foreign application. Hence, to the best of the undersigned's knowledge and recollection, each item of information contained in this IDS was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a corresponding foreign

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application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS. A copy of the European Search Report dated May 14, 2007 is enclosed for the Examiner's consideration.

While the European Search Report also cites to U.S. Patent No. 6,421,314, this document is not listed on the attached PTO Form 1449 because it was previously cited in an Office Action in this application dated December 19, 2006.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and evidence that consideration by making appropriate notations on the attached PTO Form 1449.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that the listed documents are material or constitute "Prior Art". If it should be determined that any of the listed documents do not constitute "Prior Art" under the United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such document.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should any of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

EXCEPT for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0573.

This paragraph is intended to be a **CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSIONS OF TIME** in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.13(a)(3).

Respectfully submitted,

DRINKER, BIDDLE & REATH LLP

Dated: August 13, 2007

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul A. Fournier", is written over a horizontal line.

Paul A. Fournier

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